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3-23-2012

**March 23, 2012**

The Daily Mississippian

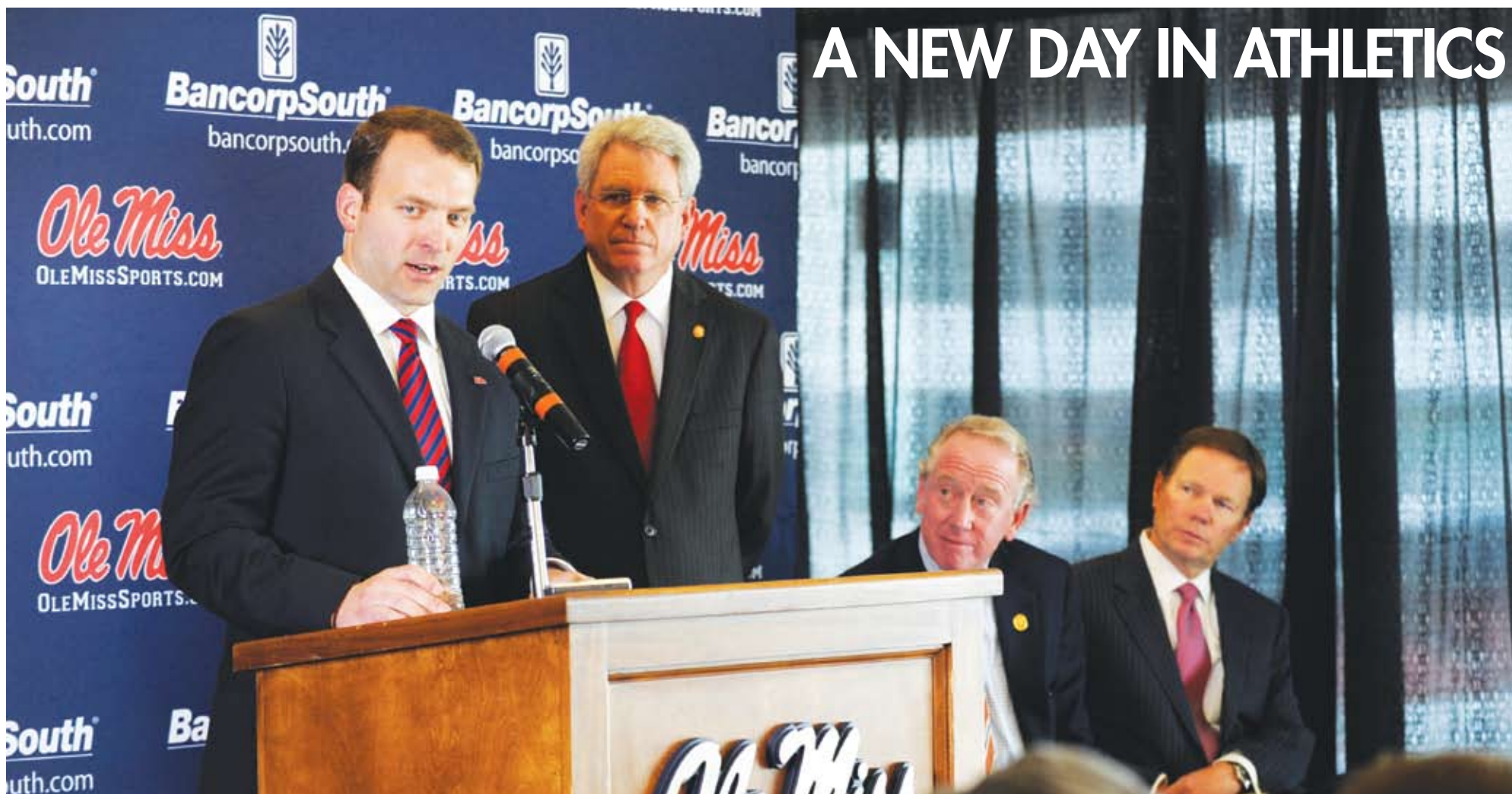
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## A NEW DAY IN ATHLETICS

LEFT TO RIGHT: New Athletics Director Ross Bjork, Chancellor Dan Jones, Search Committee Co-Chairs Archie Manning and Mike Glenn

AUSTIN MCAFEE | The Daily Mississippian

BY AUSTIN MILLER  
thedmsports@gmail.com

Lightning in a bottle twice. That's how search committee co-chair and FedEx executive Mike Glenn described the hires of football coach Hugh Freeze and the recently introduced Athletics Director Ross Bjork, who previously served in the same capacity at Western Kentucky. The committee, which included Glenn, co-

chair Archie Manning and Chancellor Dan Jones, agreed Bjork's vision, qualifications, integrity and character set him apart from "a strong pool of candidates for the position." In his introduction, Jones stressed the importance of athletics for Ole Miss, as well as excellence in the overall university.

"Today is a real step for us as a university and as an athletics department towards achieving that goal," Jones said in yesterday's in-

troductory press conference.

"When we began this search, we wanted to find a new leader for Ole Miss athletics who had integrity and who had character that fit with Ole Miss. We wanted to find somebody who was doing all the right things that you would want to find in an athletics director — clean compliance record, a strong focus on academics and an understanding of the role in the overall university. We wanted somebody

who wanted to be at Ole Miss. We wanted someone who believes that Ole Miss can win at every level. We wanted someone who could unify the Ole Miss family."

Bjork, 39, has a "depth of experience" at successful athletics programs, including Missouri, Miami (Fla.), UCLA and, most recently, Western Kentucky. According to Jones, Bjork will earn a base salary of \$400,000/year with two possible \$50,000/year incentive

bonuses. During the four-month search, a lot was made about potential candidates with strong Ole Miss ties.

"If you're one of those people who were hoping that this committee would go outside the Ole Miss family and find someone who would come in with a fresh perspective for Ole Miss athletics, here's your guy," Jones said. "If

See BJORK, PAGE 4

## Freshman retention rate on the rise

BY MEGAN SMITH  
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The freshman retention rate at the University of Mississippi has risen more than 8 percent since 1983, according to data from the Institutional Review Board.

The number of students graduating from the university in four years has increased from 33 percent to 36.5 percent.

More than 81 percent of the freshman class of 2010 is still at the university, and less than 7 percent of this year's freshman class chose not to return for a second semester. For the freshman class of 2004, this number was 9 percent.

Recent increases in the retention rate can be attributed to the retention committee, according to Kyle Ellis, assistant director of the Academic Support Center and committee member.

The 10-member committee includes members from the Office of Financial Aid, the Provost Office, the faculty, the College of Liberal Arts, the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Life and the Center for Excellence of Teaching and Learning.

The committee focuses primarily on freshmen retention, Ellis said.

If they can get students to return after freshman year, the probability of the students' graduating is much higher, said Larry Ridgeway, vice chancellor of student affairs and committee member.

Ridgeway said there was a possibility the committee will work on retention programs for other classes in the future.

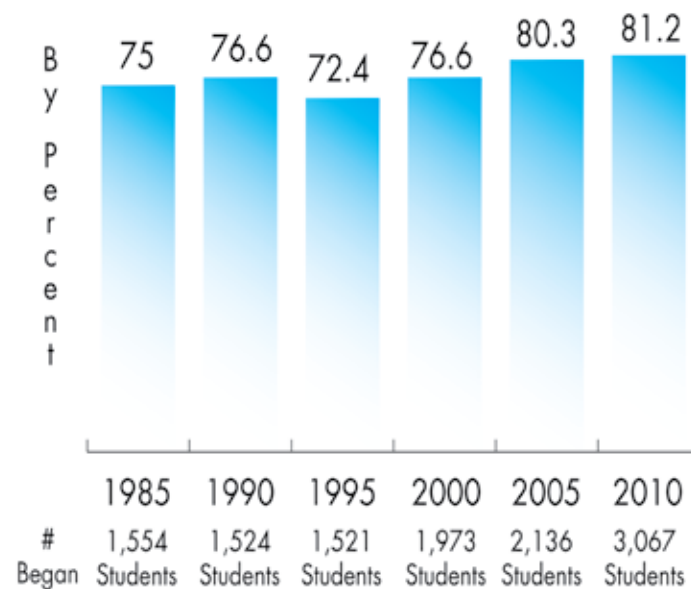
The Academic Support Center contacts students who are not registered for classes at the end of each semester. Ellis identified three primary reasons freshmen are often lost: academic, financial and social.

On the academic front, the first year experience works to provide freshmen with the information they need in order to succeed, Ellis said.

"They learn all about campus resources, about life at Ole Miss, about making the successful transition from high school senior to college freshman; there's things

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The retention rate of Freshmen from fall to fall at Ole Miss has risen since 1995



INFOGRAPHIC BY CAIN MADDEN | The Daily Mississippian

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Despite recent incidents, pedestrians and drivers still safe

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No. 17 Diamond Rebels tries to turn the tide at Alabama this weekend

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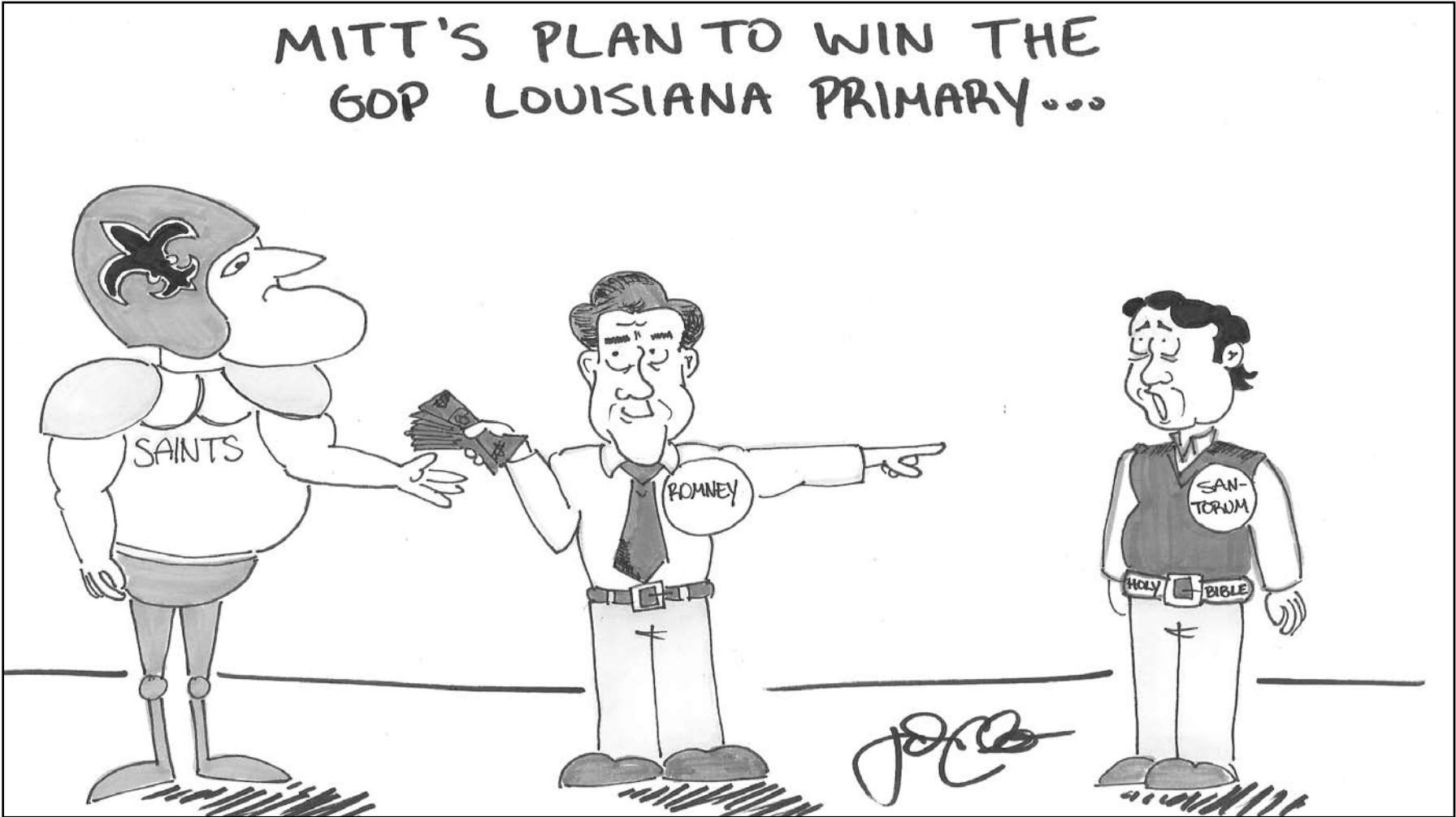
The start of spring practice and the dawn of the Hugh Freeze era

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BY JOSH CLARK  
@dm\_toons



# Kony 2012: the farce of faux-activism



BY BRITTANY SHARKEY  
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Earlier this month, a non-profit organization called Invisible Children released a viral 27-minute video seen around the world, detailing the crimes of the leader of Lord's Resistance Army, Joseph Kony. The LRA is a guerilla, anti-government organization that had been terrorizing the Ugandan countryside by abducting children from their homes to use as child soldiers in plots to overthrow the government of Uganda. While it can't be said that the producers of the video and their charity lack passion or enthusiasm for the cause, what they do seem

to lack is a fundamental understanding of the current situation on the ground in Uganda. There is no disputing that Kony is a bad guy, but the rest of the world has known this for quite some time. Kony has been the leader of the LRA since the 1980s and engineered the practice of child abduction to fill his ranks. In 2005, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for him, declaring him responsible for committing crimes against humanity. He's suspected of abducting some 66,000 children for his nefarious purposes and is responsible for the internal displacement of about two million people. The rest of the world was aware of Kony's crimes, we were just the last ones to get the memo. While the video makes all of Kony's crimes abundantly clear, it doesn't make clear what the current state of Kony and the

LRA is. The military of the government of Uganda has pushed Kony and the LRA out of Uganda and into the jungles of the Congo. There, they have been cut off from supplies and communication. There is even some speculation that Kony could already be dead and the world just hasn't found out yet. Right now, the LRA has been irreparably weakened; they're no longer a threat to the Ugandan people. The leaders of the LRA have committed atrocities, that much is true. Hopefully they are someday caught and prosecuted to the full extent of international law for their crimes, but they are not now and most likely never will be an active threat again. At the height of the LRA's reign of terror in Uganda, 40,000 children a night would leave their rural homes to trek into towns to sleep en masse in town squares to avoid being

abducted by Kony's cronies. Today, the night commutes still happen but the nightly average is down to about 10,000 children. Why is the number still so high if the LRA has been practically disbanded? Non-profits and NGO's have all set up their shops around these night commute town centers to pass out their wares. Children still congregate here because it's an invaluable source of free food and other supplies. Approximately 50 percent of Uganda's GDP is foreign aid. With the disbanding of the LRA, many child soldiers have found their way home, but to what? Hometowns ravaged by the LRA, with no schools, no jobs, no hope. The best job a returning child soldier can hope for is in the burgeoning black market of the supplies distributed by those organizations. A popular proverb says that if you give a man a fish, he'll eat

for a day but if you teach a man to fish, he'll eat for a lifetime. For years, foreign aid has been pouring into Uganda. We've been giving them fish without teaching them how to fish. The Kony 2012 campaign is more of the same. Of the funds raised, only 30 percent will actually go to Uganda and even then it goes into more fish-giving. For those compelled to help, there are organizations more attuned with the teaching to fish strategy that focus on creating infrastructure, like schools and industry. If we want to bring the child soldiers home from the clutches of the LRA, we should ensure that they have something worth coming home to. *Brittany Sharkey is a second-year law student from Oceanside, Calif. She graduated from NYU in 2010 with a degree in politics. Follow her on Twitter @brittanysarkey.*

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## The Daily Mississippian

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Student submissions must include grade classification and major. All submissions must be turned in at least three days in advance of date of desired publication.





# Getting to the root



BY ANDREW DICKSON  
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The week after Spring Break 2011, I wrote a column regarding the talk therapy offered on campus at the University Counseling Center, located across the street from Bishop Hall.

That piece came at the height of a Pink Floyd phase, and, naturally, I used “The Wall” as an analogy for the isolation we often willingly suffer through to protect ourselves from the world.

I quoted plenty of “Floydian” ideas via their song lyrics. This device of interjecting somewhat relevant lyrics from the bands I’m currently listening to was then prominent in my psyche and writing.

As time began to pass, I started sitting down and consciously developing my writing on a daily basis. I decided that it was imperative I reach my own conclusions and present them with my style instead of merely echoing the conclusions of others — they are great, but I had my own voice to find.

So today I offer a different

perspective on talk therapy and autonomy. I still recommend the services of the counseling center on campus if you find yourself in need of someone to listen, but I’ve drawn my own conclusions about depression, talk therapy and therapists after some life experiences.

Depression is a problem that requires honesty to discuss and resolve. To be depressed is to experience a highly subjective state of being — one that can be frustratingly difficult to explain; it was Huxley who said, “We can pool information about experiences, but never the experiences themselves.”

We have limits as humans. You can experience, quite profoundly I might add, what you consider “depression,” and you can even conquer that depression. However, what depressed you and what you needed to do to fix it could dramatically differ from what’s depressing me and what I need to do.

Sure, we can “pool information about the experiences,” and people who themselves suffer in a similar manner can relate in some way. I once knew a man experiencing clinical depression; after his battle, he began dedicating time toward appreciating being alive and helping others do the same.

What follows is his story.

“It started out with me becoming OK with wasting time,” he told me. “Sitting around — it leads to thoughts of boredom, to thoughts of being alone and not knowing what to do with yourself.

“At some point something got in the way; I got away from doing what I love, and depression is merely a cycle of suffering that gets worse the longer you deprive yourself from the things you love.

“But the worst part is that deep down inside, you already know the truth,” he said. “You already know you should be out there facing the world and giving it what you have to offer, but instead some thought process keeps you home, waiting, and you begin to resent yourself for it; at that point, depression is another classically conditioned behavior — and time strengthens this resentment of self.”

He claimed that while drugs have some efficacy in psychoanalysis, the process of talk therapy is much more important. While an anti-depressant may help relieve feelings of depression, you won’t be able to remove the depressive thoughts from your psyche until you attack them at their root — the mind.

This is the therapist’s place.

Psychological diseases do indeed exist as much as anything

else could “exist” in the mind. Unlike your friends, therapists are completely removed from your situation and can therefore approach it in a much more objective — or “clinical,” if you will — manner, offering an opinion you rarely hear.

Talk therapy works by letting the patient clearly articulate what is bothering him or her. Our minds develop “blind spots” that repress traumatic or embarrassing memories, and typically the ego refuses to let our thought processes revisit these events because it would seemingly be more pleasant not to.

The therapist acts as a catalyst for your thought processes. The fact that you are engrossed in a deep conversation (with the therapist) helps ensure that if you stumble upon something incredible within your consciousness you will then have to fully articulate it; you have to finish your thoughts.

And finishing your thoughts is nothing short of therapeutic, my friend. Learning how to trace emotions to their root may lead you to not needing a doctor or drugs — it may lead you to autonomy.

I believe the most incredible aspect of talk therapy is that it requires you to open up, say some things you feel you might feel judged for saying in another

setting, and, most importantly, it requires you to hear your own advice — to uncover what you think you should do given your own situation.

I leave you with an example from the man who suffered with depression: one day he walked into his therapist’s office with an existential crisis involving his writing. He began expressing himself to his therapist using song lyrics, a prominent trait of his. He said, “If these were my last words, would they even make print? What if all I have to say has simply been over-said by those old heretics?”

His therapist gave pause; when he was ready to speak, he said, “What if you’re correct?”

At this point nothing was left to be said. The man in our story realized he alone was now the agent of happiness and depression in his life; he stopped trying to sound and write like all the rest and began to focus on his conclusions — on what he had to offer. Autonomy is a funny thing: without it, you will surely feel a void in your psyche; with it, you become more confident in who and what you are daily.

If you’re feeling depressed, let’s talk about it — there’s nothing like hearing that voice.

*Andrew Dickson is a religious studies senior from Terry.*



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RETENTION,  
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on time management and study skills,” he said. “It’s just a good, basic class to help them get acclimated.”

Freshmen on probation after the fall semester must take the academic skills for college class.

Other academic support is offered through housing with free tutoring.

The first-year attendance based initiative works to make sure freshmen are going to class.

The Academic Support Center also contacts students with poor midterm grades to see how they can help the students before it is too late, Ellis said.

The second area of concern is financial.

“The Office of Financial Aid has some specific programs in place — they have some different initiatives — where they can reach out to those students,” Ellis said. “Social reasons also cause many freshmen to drop out.”

The two new residential colleges provide students with a smaller community within the large university atmosphere.

Also, freshmen who take the first year experience class participate in activities like community service, which allows them to get to know each other.

One program, called FastTrack, allows freshmen to take three “light” classes together and participate in outside activities.

“Everything we’ve done has been within the last three years,” Ellis said.

Future initiatives include doubling the size of the FastTrack program and increasing the size of the first year experience class.

The committee has also looked into retention software, which would help the university identify and communicate with at-risk students earlier in the semester.

BJORK,  
continued from page 1

you were somebody who wanted somebody from the Ole Miss family to lead Ole Miss athletics, here’s your guy. Right here. And he is going to be as much a part of the Ole Miss family as the Ole Miss family makes him a part of the Ole Miss family.

“This is a new day in athletics for us. Ross Bjork is our leader. He needs the support of every person in the Ole Miss family, and that’s the way he will be successful and that’s the way we will all be successful.”

As the youngest athletics director for a BCS school in the country, Bjork said there was never a personal timeline to assuming that role and responsibility.

“My goal all along was to give back to this profession,” Bjork said. “I was a student-athlete at a much lower level, Division II. The purity of that was so much fun. I wanted to give back in some way. To be an athletic director, that was the goal. To me the BCS/AQ program, I just wanted to be at a place that cared about athletics. Western Kentucky cares about athletics; Ole Miss cares about athletics. Those are the programs you want to work at.”

As evidenced by his previous experience, Bjork is a gifted fundraiser. He said developing relationships is the number one ingredient to successful fundraising. He also talked about the momentum of Ole Miss’ Forward Together campaign but knows it has a ways to go to reach its lofty goals.

“The campaign is off to a great start,” Bjork said of Forward Together. “I love where we are at. Now we’ve got to close it. We’ve got to finish it. Can we accelerate it? Can we do some things in a hurry? That’s what I’m going to look into with Danny and his staff. I like the momentum that’s

created. Now we’ve got to start working with people.”

Jones said Bjork will assume full responsibilities as athletics director in two to four weeks, but in the meantime, Bjork is going to participate in all the major decisions going forward. Bjork said he wants to be in Oxford by the Ole Miss Grove Bowl on April 21, which he described as an “important moment for our program.” Among those major decisions are the searches for a new track and field coach, women’s basketball coach and the status of men’s basketball coach Andy Kennedy amid the UAB rumors.

“Those decisions are always made with the best interests of the program in mind,” Bjork said. “We went through a tough situation in men’s basketball, but it turned out to be a great situation. Women’s basketball same type of deal, very similar to here; energy, recruiting in the program and competing for championships. So luckily, I just went through a women’s search at Western Kentucky.

“I understand the dynamics of the finalists who are in the mix here for the women’s job. I am heavily involved in understanding that and learning that and, to me, we are going to hire the best coach for this job. The dynamics of that are always what is best for the program, and we have to hire the best and brightest.

“This is a great job. This program has won a lot of basketball games. People want this job. So, I am going to be heavily involved in that. And, obviously, we’ve got to address coach Kennedy and the chancellor and I have spoken about that as well.”

However, for Bjork, it’s more than fundraising or making the right coaching decisions to be an athletics director.

“I think you are defined by everything you do,” he said. “I think coaches, fundraising and facilities.

Ross Bjork: Career Timeline



2012 - Present:	Ole Miss, Director of Athletics
2010 - 2012:	Western Kentucky, Director of Athletics
2005 -10:	UCLA, Senior Associate Athletic Director for External Relations
2003 - 05:	University of Miami, Associate Athletic Director for External Operations
2001 - 03:	University of Missouri, Assistant Athletic Director for Development
1997 - 2001:	University of Missouri, Athletic Development Officer
1996 - 97:	Western Kentucky, Assistant Development Coordinator
1995 - 96:	Western Illinois University, Campus Recreation Grad Assistant/Athletic Department Volunteer
1995:	University of Tulsa, Marketing Intern
1994:	Albuquerque Dukes, Front Office Intern

Cain Madden | The Daily Mississippian

To me, you’ve got to be involved in everything. You’ve got to be able to hire the right people. You’ve got to be able to fundraise. You’ve got to be able to look at drawings on an architect page and say that room needs to go here and not there. You’ve got to be able to do all things. So, I think we are defined by every decision we make, and I think the filter, once again, is what is best for the program.”

Bjork described Oxford and Ole Miss as “the opportunity to live and work in the best collegiate environment in all of higher education.” He shared his vision and mission for the athletics department in the overall Ole Miss setting.

“We are here to educate our students and athletics will be no different in that vision,” Bjork said. “Here at the University of Mississippi our mission is to provide the opportunity to change lives. Simply put, we engage minds,

we transform lives and we serve others. What does that mean for athletics as we integrate ourselves into the institution? We are going to challenge our students athletes academically, we are going to provide them life changing opportunities through sports, and we are going to serve others by providing entertainment, service and competing for championships.”

Bjork went on to say that attitude and effort will determine success through his philosophy and core values based on academic excellence, student-athlete welfare, integrity, integration with the university, community engagement, social responsibility and competitiveness. In the close of his opening statement, he made a final plea to the Ole Miss family.

“Anybody who cares about this institution, I ask one thing of you; pull the rope in the same direction because you love our kids and you love this institution,” he said.

Oxford Science Café discusses cancer

BY DEVIN HASLOB  
devin.haslob@gmail.com

Tracy Brooks, assistant professor of pharmacology and research assistant professor in the Research Institute of Pharmacological Sciences at the University of Mississippi, held a discussion Tuesday on targeted chemotherapy called, “Cancer: What is the Cure?”

The conversation was held at Lusa Pastry Café as part of the Oxford Science Café event, a series of scientific conversations held on a monthly basis to educate and entertain members of the Oxford community.

Dozens of people attended the event - some struggling with cancer and others had friends or family who were.

Brooks focused on complex topics related to genetics and oncology, it was presented in an easily understood way.

The discussion focused on different types of targeted chemotherapy and how far research on therapies for breast cancer, gastrointestinal tumors, myelogenous leukemia and other forms of cancer has actually come.

Randy M. Wadkins, an associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry who practiced at John Hopkins University’s department of oncology, gave last month’s half of the two-part cancer discussion at the Science Café.

“I think that people who just live in the rural communities don’t have much of an opportunity to interact with people who do science for a living,” he said. “It’s interesting because you get questions from people about odd things that you don’t even know people are talking about. I think people are inherently interested in science.”

Milan Walker, a Science Café at-

tendee whose mother had cancer, came to the event with his daughter-in-law because they were both interested in the subject.

“I came here a couple of months ago to one of the lectures on astronomy and it was interesting, so I decided to come back here,” he said. “My daughter-in-law is a nurse, and she’s also very interested in the subject.”

Walker said he thought the lecture was very informative.

The Oxford Science Café is held on a monthly basis and the next planned event is a discussion by Amber Stuver (CalTech) on the methods of astronomy. The upcoming event is scheduled for April 17 at the Lusa Pastry Café from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The events are free and open to the public.

For any questions about the Oxford Science Café, send queries to oxfordsciencecafe@phy.olemiss.edu.

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# Video games, good or bad?

BY RYAN GROVER  
drgrover08@gmail.com

A recent study shows that video games are actually beneficial to the human brain. An article published in Fox News Health titled “Playing Video Games is Good for You” reports that scientists found that action-based video and computer games improve creativity, decision-making and perception. However, as with anything, there can be side effects to playing videos game too much and too often.

The study showed that “people who played action-based video and computer (games) made decisions 25 percent faster than others without sacrificing accuracy. Moreover, practiced game players can pay attention to more than six things at once without getting confused, compared with the four that someone can normally keep in mind.”

Talbot Adams, a local licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist, said the multitasking skills video games can help to develop is essential to modern careers.

“Video gaming is great for managing many tasks at one time – doing what’s in front of you, on your plate right then,” he said. “It is great for short term decisions. The downside is that another reality of modern careers is that, despite multitasking skills, we need to do one thing well. If we don’t have to do either one, well, then it doesn’t really matter, but if you are expected to sit and write a report or have a one-on-one conversation with another person, then video gaming does not prepare you for those skills.”

Anthropology sophomore and gamer Max Hueppe said video games have affected him.

“Video games are generally good for people,” Hueppe said. “However, this doesn’t mean it doesn’t come with its own drawbacks. I can’t say that I can concentrate on 40 percent more things at the same time or have a better reaction time than most people or anything like that. I can say that it helps relieve a lot of my stress.

“Talking with friends and family are the best ways to relieve stress, but sometimes you just have to be alone, and, for me, playing video games is the best way to keep my mind off life. Life is difficult sometimes and people need an outlet.”

Researchers did find that many people who play video games find themselves more depressed and may have other emotional issues. A few other negatives include being a bit introverted, overweight and prone to depression.

“Video games are great if students use them to use a little leisure time and such, but (they) can often take on an addictive quality,” Talbot said. “When I used to game, if I played for over 30 minutes, I knew I wouldn’t be able to quit for a few more hours.”

Talbot also noted the correlation between ADHD and video gaming. In college, he helped with ADHD research and performed intake interviews. The majority of the people he tested played video games.

While video games do have their upsides and can help people to be more creative and more perceptive, they can also slowly rob them of necessary social skills to function at their job and in everyday life.

# Conference for the Book features topics of memoir and biography

BY MARGARYTA KIRAKOSIAN  
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The 19th annual Conference for the Book started yesterday and will continue until March 24.

“The goal of the conference is to bring together people to discuss issues of the book industry, literacy and literature,” said Ted Ownby, director of the UM Center for the Study of Southern Culture. “It helps to understand why people write, what topics interest them and for whom they do it. I like that this conference attracts publishers, novelists, book sellers, scholars and poets.”

This event is a common initiative by the University of Mississippi Center for the Study of Southern Culture and Square Books store.

who remembered the South’s rise, fall and flourish in their writings. For example, Dunlap will talk about Julia Reed and her post-Katrina memoir *The House on First Street*. Washington Post named it “part ‘Money Pit’ and part love letter to her adopted home town.”

Walton said a novelty of Conference for the Book 2012 is a panel about online publishing, where four bloggers will talk about the evolution of the written word.

The conference will also feature a lot of other activities. For example, Bobby Keys, former saxophonist with the Rolling Stones, writer Bill Ditenhafer and publisher Charlie Winton will read on Friday. Also on Monday, March 26, Beth Ann Fennelly, associate professor of English at Ole Miss, will

host a celebration of National Poetry Month.

Ownby thinks it is a great opportunity for students to know more about writing and literature.

“It is always interesting to talk to professionals, who can explain specific details of their work,” he said. “Students who want to become writers can come to the meetings and get some practical advises.”

Ownby also said Square Books is a good partner for organizing Conference for the Book.

“Square Books is a successful independent bookstore,” he said.

“There you can find not only books of new authors but classics as well. They often invite famous authors to Oxford. We are happy to work with them.”

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**MARCH 24, 2012**

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\$100 player fee with teams of 4 free t-shirt and lunch included

**Fraternity Golf Tournament** 1:00 PM tee time following lunch  
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**5K Walk Away from Child Abuse** 8:00 AM - \$10 registration fee/registration begins at 7:30 AM. Starting at Mid Town Shopping Center

Email [kdshamrock2012@yahoo.com](mailto:kdshamrock2012@yahoo.com) for more information or for a golf registration form. Ad forms are available for either an ad booklet that will be given out or sponsorship of a hole in the tournament.

80% of the proceeds collected will locally benefit the Exchange Club Family Center of Oxford, which caters to all of North Mississippi. The remaining 20% will go to Prevent Child Abuse America, Kappa Delta's national philanthropy.



# Despite recent incidents, pedestrians and drivers still safe

BY JENNIFER NASSAR  
jennifernassar08@gmail.com

The Oxford-University community is no stranger to automobile accidents. With a hit and run on campus and some traffic accidents already this year, the question is whether the town and campus are safe for drivers and pedestrians.

There have been close to 268 automobile accidents and an estimated 99 DUIs within the Oxford city limits since January, according to Oxford Police Chief Mike Martin.

Martin said there were minor to no injuries with most of these accidents, and there have been no serious injuries that were alcohol-related.

“There has been no fatality that alcohol was involved in,” he said. “We had one fatality crash this year, but alcohol was not a factor.”

Fender benders make up



QUENTIN WINSTINE | The Daily Mississippian

A student bikes on University Avenue amid automobile traffic. Biking on campus is still safe, as long as motorists and bikers are aware of each other.

many of the accidents on campus, and alcohol-related accidents are not a big problem, according to University Police Department officer

Kendall Brown.

“Fortunately, we have very few,” he said. “I think our officers do a good job of patrolling, doing checkpoints and things of that nature.”

Martin said he doesn’t think the automobile accidents in Oxford are out of control. He said distracted drivers are usually the biggest problem, especially considering the fact that the majority of crashes are the result of at least one of the drivers not paying attention.

“Distracted drivers cause more crashes than anything,” Martin said. “Most traffic crashes can be avoided if the driver is paying attention.”

Martin also said following the speed limit and having the appropriate number of car lengths between cars can prevent crashing into a car that is pulling out into traffic.

“It may not be your fault if someone pulls out in front of you,” he said. “If you’re paying attention, that crash can possibly be avoided.”

Not talking on a cell phone, texting or fooling around with something in the car while driving can easily prevent

traffic crashes, too, according to Martin.

Aside from preventing traffic accidents, Martin said these actions can also be used to prevent hitting pedestrians and hit and runs.

“There have been close to six hit-and-run accidents so far this year where the drivers left the scene of the accident,” he said.

Martin said pedestrians should be just as cautious and aware of their surroundings as drivers.

“If you’re on sidewalks and such, you should be fine,” he said. “Just remember, when you walk, you should face traffic; that way you can see what the vehicles are doing.”

Despite the hit-and-run incident on campus a few weeks ago and a Hotty Toddy Taxi running over three students’ feet, Brown said the campus is still safe to walk around.

“I think those two incidents weren’t traditional traffic accidents,” he said. “With the hit and run, there were other factors that caused it. It wasn’t a normal traffic accident.”

Brow said UPD reaches out to students with programs

to educate them about traffic laws and to prevent accidents.

“We get out and do programs with different groups on campus all the time,” he said. “Especially freshmen — we talk to them about the DUI laws in Mississippi, as well as traffic laws and using seatbelts.”

Martin said drinking and driving is a matter of common sense.

“DUI is such a senseless thing,” he said. “If you chose to drink and drive a vehicle, and if you’re involved in a crash with another car, a pedestrian or a bicyclist, and a serious injury or death occurs, then that’s a poor choice you’ll have to live with for the rest of your life.”

History senior Wilson Griffin said he feels the Oxford-Ole Miss community is safe for walking and that accidents involving pedestrians are easily preventable.

“Situational awareness will probably keep them from getting hurt,” he said. “It’s safe if you’re not texting and walking or on your cell phone with your head up your rear end.”

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# RHA hosts Spring Break II



PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALLER | The Daily Mississippian  
The Residence Hall Association hosted an event this week for students to enjoy themselves. Entitled "Spring Break II," students were treated to free food and a number of activities.

## news briefs

### PRO BASKETBALL MAKES ITS WAY TO OXFORD

Jackson's newest American Basketball Association (ABA) team, the Jackson Showboats, will visit Oxford this weekend to begin their publicity tour.

Their season doesn't start until October, but the Showboats are getting their name out there, starting on Saturday with an "After Spring Break Party" on the Square.

The party, which will include viewing the NCAA Tournament Final Four, starts at 5 p.m. at Frank and Marlee's and is open to students and Oxonians alike, ages 18 and up.

"We want the Showboats to be more than Jackson's team, but a team that the entire state can get behind and support," said Lance Ingram, publicity assistant for the team. "There are a lot of students from the Jackson area, and we wanted to reach out and raise awareness of our upcoming inaugural season."

Frank and Marlee's will provide food and drink specials.

For more information, email [lingram@jacksonshowboats.com](mailto:lingram@jacksonshowboats.com) or visit [www.jacksonshowboats.com](http://www.jacksonshowboats.com) or [www.abalive.com](http://www.abalive.com).

### CITY SPEED BUMP POLICY DELAYED

The Oxford Board of Aldermen delayed the authorization of a new speed bump policy at its March 20 meeting.

City engineer Bart Robinson proposed that the aldermen consider options outside of speed bumps, but Mayor Pat Patterson said he wanted to move forward with the policy.

"It's needed," he said. "The people of Oxford want this."

Robinson gave examples of alternative options, including paint and roundabouts.

Aldermen Janice Antonow asked Robinson if he was comfortable prioritizing these things.

"I would feel more comfortable maybe if we could help facilitate deciding what to do," Robinson said. "I could envision that maybe the Pathways Commission could help with a neighborhood meeting, offering ideas instead of speed bumps."

Robinson also said the discussion might prove that the speed bump issue could be worked out case by case.

Antonow also suggested the aldermen allow the city engineers to prioritize the streets.

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March 31st  
Mississippi State  
Horsepark  
8pm



# Hipp’s Tips: Spring Practice edition

BY BENNETT HIPPI  
jbhipp@olemiss.edu

As spring practice begins today at 3:30 on the practice fields, here are five things to keep an eye on:

**1. Replacing the tackles**  
The Rebels have to replace both offensive tackles as Bradley Sowell graduated and Bobby Massie left early for the NFL draft. In his spring practice press conference, Hugh Freeze said sophomore Aaron Morris and junior college transfer Pierce Burton were the two most gifted tackles on the team. Those two will be up front as practice begins but will be pushed by Emmanuel McCray and others. Freeze also had high praise for Jimel Judon, a former Ole Miss baseball player, who is now giving football a try.

**2. Lack of depth at running back**

With the departures of Brandon Bolden and Enrique Davis, the Rebels find themselves very thin at the running back position. Junior Jeff Scott returns, but his reps will have to be watched during the spring to prevent injuries. Senior Devin Thomas will be counted upon to step up and handle a larger amount of reps, as will sophomore Nick Parker, who lost 20 pounds over the off-season, according to Freeze. Ole Miss will have to be very careful and limit how much tackling the running backs can handle.

**3. Will someone break away from the pack in the quarterback battle?**

Junior college transfer Bo Wallace is thought to have the inside track at the starting job because of his familiarity with



FILE PHOTO | ADDISON DENT | The Daily Mississippian  
Sophomore Donte Moncrief makes a touchdown catch against Arkansas this past season. Moncrief should find plenty of reps in Hugh Freeze’s wide-open, spread offense.

Freeze and his playbook, but how much a year on the scout team at Arkansas State helped him is up for debate. Seniors Zack Stoudt and Randall Mackey both will be feeling a sense of urgency to produce early, as this is their last year of college eligibility. Stoudt played well when the Rebels were able to block for him, so he could be one that surprises. Junior Barry Brunetti started down the stretch last season but will need to impress in order to not get lost in the quar-

terback shuffle.  
**4. Freeze’s offense**  
Much of the buzz around Freeze is because of the highly successful, wide-open, spread offense he is bringing to Oxford. The Rebels brought in a ton of wide receivers last year, and Donte Moncrief, Nickolas Brassell, Tobias Singleton, Collins Moore and Josh Pinkston all should find plenty of reps available to them in their respective second seasons in Oxford.  
Those guys will battle veterans like junior Ja-Mes Logan for reps. A new coaching staff also gives fellow sophomore Vince Sanders a clean slate after underachieving so far in his Ole Miss career. It should be fascinating to watch and see who takes off running in Freeze’s fast-paced system.

**5. Fixing the pass rush**  
In his pre-spring press conference, Freeze was very concerned about the lack of a consistent pass rush from the Rebels’ front four, especially their defensive ends. With Kentrell Lockett gone, now is the time for players like Gerald Rivers, Jason Jones, Carlos Thompson, C.J. Johnson and others to step up and give Freeze the legitimate pass rusher he’s looking for. Freeze said defensive coordinator Dave Wommack has watched every game, and both he and Freeze are confident in defensive line coach Chris Kiffin and the players’ defensive line technique.

# Both tennis teams return to SEC action this weekend after week off



AUSTIN MCAFFEE | The Daily Mississippian  
Freshman Nik Scholtz was named SEC Freshman of the Week this past week.

BY MATT SIGLER  
mcsigler@olemiss.edu

The No. 19 Ole Miss women’s tennis team (10-6, 2-2 SEC) has a tough road ahead this weekend with a home match against No. 32 South Carolina (10-4, 1-3 SEC) today at 3 p.m., then travels to take on No. 2 Florida (11-1, 4-0 SEC) Sunday at noon.

“They are two really good teams,” head coach Mark Beyers said. “Obviously, Florida is the best or second best team in the country. They’ve got the same team as last year that won the NCAA title, so they are a tough team.”  
“South Carolina is an extremely talented team. Sometimes you never know what South Carolina team is going to show up, but they are as talented as any team in the conference, so it’s going to be a tough match.”  
The Rebels (10-6, 2-2) played both teams tough this past season and know both matches this weekend will be competitive.

“Last year we had a bunch of three-set matches against them, and we weren’t able to pull any of them out,” Beyers said of Florida. “So I feel like we can play with these guys, get a little bit lucky, maybe catch them on an off day and have us playing great tennis.”  
“Last year we split with them,” Beyers said of South Carolina. “We beat them in the regular season and lost to them in the SEC tournament, so I expect another close match.”  
Ole Miss is one of four teams with a 2-2 record in Southeastern Conference play, one back of Georgia

and Vanderbilt at 3-1 and two back of Alabama and Florida at 4-0.  
**Rebel Netters travel to No. 40 South Carolina, return home for huge match against No. 11 Florida**

The No. 14 Ole Miss men’s tennis team returns to Southeastern Conference play after a 2-1 record over Spring Break and a week off heading into matches against No. 40 South Carolina and No. 11 Florida. The Rebels (7-4, 3-1) play at South Carolina (13-5, 0-4 SEC) today at noon before a huge home match against the Gators (9-6, 2-2 SEC) Sunday at 1 p.m. from the Palmer/Salloum Tennis Center/Galtney Courts.  
“Every SEC match is a tough, no question,” head coach Billy Chadwick said. “Playing South Carolina at South Carolina is going to be a big challenge for us; we are looking forward to it. The team is really starting to play well. Then we come back here, and I would like to encourage all of our fans to come out, and we need to get it packed when we play Florida. We need that one.”  
Ole Miss has received great play from freshman Nik Scholtz in recent weeks, and the South Africa native looks to provide consistency and lead from the top of the lineup at No. 1 singles.  
“I would really like to lead from the top,” he said. “If I can do that and lead by example I would feel honored to take that role.”  
The Rebels are currently tied atop the SEC Western Division with Mississippi State at 3-1 in league play, one back of Georgia and Kentucky, both at 4-0.

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GARFIELD

I'M SORRY TO HEAR YOU AREN'T FEELING WELL, LIZ

OF COURSE WE CAN CANCEL OUR DATE

ANOTHER CAN OF PEOPORANT DOWN THE DRAIN!

MR. TENSE

By JIM DAVIS

THE FUSCO BROTHERS

By J.C. DUFFY

HI... IS IT HORSE NIGHT AT THE BAR?

ACTUALLY, WHEN I SAW YOU, I FIGURED IT MUST BE JACKASS NIGHT.

DILBERT

By SCOTT ADAMS

MY OLD NEMESIS RETIRED. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY NEW NEMESIS?

WHY ME?

YOU'RE NOTORIOUSLY INEFFECTIVE. THAT'S THE BEST KIND OF NEMESIS TO HAVE.

THAT SHOULD PRIME THE PUMP.

I WILL THWART YOU A NEW ONE!

NON SEQUITUR

By WILEY

!

YES!!

I THINK IT'S TIME TO CLEAN THE TANK, DEAR

WOO HOO!

DOONESBURY

By GARRY TRUDEAU

I JUST FEEL THIS IS WORK I WAS BORN TO DO, ZIP. AND RECENTLY, THERE WAS A... WELL, A SIGN!

WHAT SORT OF SIGN, UNCLE ZONK?

YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE IT.

TRY ME!

SAY YOU'LL TAKE MY SEEDS TO CALIFORNIA! SAY IT!

I'LL TAKE YOUR SEEDS TO CALIFORNIA.

WHY WOULDN'T I BELIEVE THAT?

OH, RIGHT, YOU'RE A HARRIS.

1 8 6

4 6 3

5 3 6

9 4 2 7

7 1 2 6 9

8 9 5

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

IIIIII

1	3	2	5	8	4	6	9	7
4	6	5	3	7	9	1	2	8
8	9	7	1	2	6	5	4	3
2	5	1	4	3	7	9	8	6
3	7	4	9	6	8	2	5	1
9	8	6	2	5	1	3	7	4
7	1	9	6	4	5	8	3	2
5	4	3	8	1	2	7	6	9
6	2	8	7	9	3	4	1	5

ACROSS

1 Speculate

7 Pisces mo.

10 Gray-green shrub

14 Husky-voiced

15 Retiree's kitty

16 Ponder

17 Go up against

18 Popcorn buy

19 "Garfield" dog

20 Restaurant amenity (2 wds.)

23 Monastery

26 Zoo staffer

27 Quick with a quip

28 Boon

29 companions

30 Slangy physique

31 FedEx truck

32 Cassius Clay

33 Hole puncher

34 Clinked

37 Stimp's buddy

38 Cleveland cager

39 Et, for Hans

40 Livy's eggs

41 Roman Legion officer

43 Call — cab

44 Vereen or Kingsley

45 "Pulp Fiction" name

46 ABC rival

47 Ms. Rowlands

48 Intimate

51 Bart, to Lisa

52 Squander

53 Coelacanth, for one (2 wds.)

56 Helm position

57 Pacino and Hirt

58 Noble principles

62 Natural elevs.

63 Smidgen

64 Negation

65 Secret preface

66 Dirty place

67 Captivate

DOWN

1 Question starter

2 Dinny's rider

3 Velvety surface

4 Flocks

5 Dryden work

6 Projection room unit

7 Was the right size

8 Spew ash

9 — au rum

10 Curing hams

11 Taxpayer's dread

12 Flash

13 Mournful poem

21 Mutate

22 Zaire neighbor

23 Separate

24 Harvest machine

25 Thin pancakes

29 Safari boss

30 Tarzan's transport

32 Shrewdness

33 Large shrimps

34 Brain parts

35 Occasion

36 Perseus' mother

42 Most crowded

46 Stills and Nash partner

47 Lead ore

48 Vise

49 Happy tunes

50 Pizzeria musts

51 Musical key (2 wds.)

52 Add a lane

54 Is on the go

55 Fries, maybe

59 Set one's sights

60 Thai language

61 Type of 35mm camera

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

SWEET URDU BABE

REAR HORN AMOK

TERRA FLOW TARE

APPEND LIONIZED

CAP DRAKES

REUBENS TDS

IDLED ALOHA GAG

TEND PLINY SLIM

ANA TEMPE ERODE

DUD ABDOMEN

OPERAS LEI

FLIPFLOP AFGHAN

ISLA IRON INANE

JEER NERO CASTLE

INST GREW ETHEL

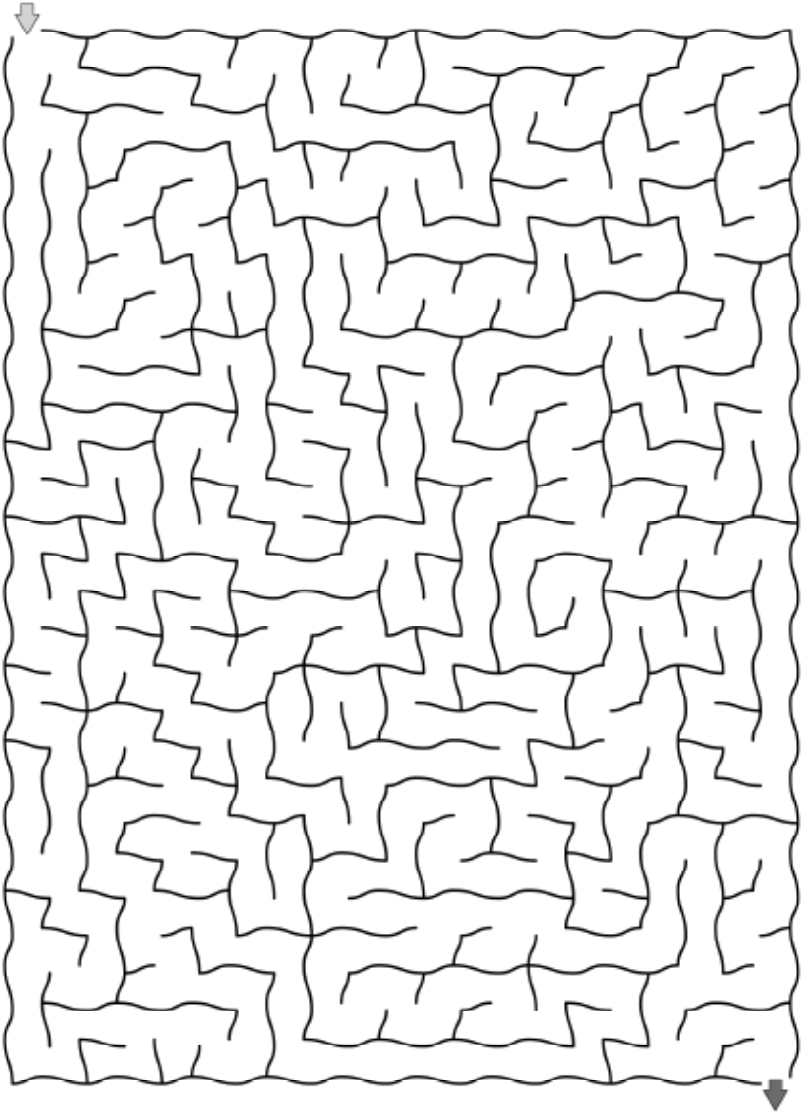
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# No. 17 Diamond Rebels try to turn the tide at Alabama this weekend

## Ole Miss vs. Alabama: Probable Starters

FRIDAY, 6:35 p.m.



Ole Miss  
#19 Bobby Wahl  
Sophomore, RHP

4-0 34 SO  
29.0 IP 10 BB  
1.55 ERA .202 B/AVG.



Alabama  
#29 Charley Sullivan  
Junior, RHP

2-2 18 SO  
29.1 IP 7 BB  
3.07 ERA .255 B/AVG.

SATURDAY, 2:05 p.m.



Ole Miss  
#27 R.J. Hively  
Senior, RHP

3-1 33 SO  
28.2 IP 6 BB  
1.88 ERA .223 B/AVG.



Alabama  
#26 Justin Kamplain  
Freshman, LHP

1-1 20 SO  
21.1 IP 17 BB  
2.53 ERA .205 B/AVG.

SUNDAY, 1:05 p.m.



Ole Miss  
#28 Mike Mayers  
Sophomore, RHP

2-2 23 SO  
29.2 IP 8 BB  
3.34 ERA .206 B/AVG.



Alabama  
#35 Jon Keller  
Freshman, LHP

0-0 7 SO  
16.0 IP 5 BB  
3.38 ERA .233 B/AVG.

INFOGRAPHIC BY KELSEY DOCKERY | The Daily Mississippian



FILE PHOTO | ALEX EDWARDS | The Daily Mississippian

Junior second baseman Alex Yarbrough, who leads the team with a .410 batting average and 25 RBI, is expected to play this weekend.

errors while Alabama has recorded 30.

On Friday night, sophomore right-hander Bobby Wahl (4-0) will oppose junior right-hander Charley Sullivan (2-2), who has a 3.07 earned run average in 29.1 innings pitched this season.

Senior righty R.J. Hively (3-1) will battle against freshman left-hander Justin Kamplain (1-1) in Saturday's contest. Kamplain has a 2.53 earned run average in 28.2 innings of work.

In the series finale, sophomore right-hander Mike Mayers (2-2) looks to put together another dominant performance after going 8.2 innings last Sunday, giving up three runs on six in the 3-2 loss. His counterpart will be freshman left-hander Jon Keller, who is making his second start of the year. Keller has recorded 16.0 innings this season with an earned run average of 3.38.

At the plate, Ole Miss holds a decisive advantage over Alabama despite the struggles during the three-game losing streak. The Rebels have averaged 7.3 runs per game and hit .308 as a team, compared to 4.6 runs per game and a .242 batting average for Alabama, which is last in the conference.

Junior second baseman Alex Yarbrough, who leads the Rebels offensively with a .410 aver-

age and 25 RBI, is nursing a left elbow injury, but he is expected to play this weekend. Freshman outfielder Senquez Golson is not on the travel roster this weekend, Chase Parham from RebelGrove.com reported yesterday. For the Crimson Tide, freshman catcher

Ben Moore leads the team with a .315 batting average with nine RBI.

The series opener tonight is scheduled to begin at 6:35 p.m. Saturday's first pitch is set for 2:05 p.m. and Sunday's contest will start at 1:05 p.m.

BY DAVID COLLIER  
dcollier@olemiss.edu

Trying to snap a three-game losing streak, the No. 17 Ole Miss Diamond Rebels (15-6, 1-2 SEC) will travel to Tuscaloosa to take on the Alabama Crimson Tide (8-13, 0-3 SEC) for their first Southeastern Conference road series of the season.

On paper, Ole Miss is head and shoulders above Alabama, but on the field, that is certainly not the case, especially given the 1-3 record going back to the start of the Auburn series this past weekend.

Both the Rebels and the Crimson Tide are struggling as of late, and both teams suffered a loss in their first SEC series before getting shut out in a midweek game against an in-state opponent.

Alabama has dropped four straight contests, including a sweep at the hands of Arkansas and a 9-0 loss to Troy on Tuesday, while Ole Miss lost two out of three against Auburn this past weekend before getting shut out 10-0 in a midweek contest against Southern Miss on Tuesday night.

Some of the Crimson Tide's struggles have come from the mound. Alabama is 11th in the conference with a team earned run average of 4.73. The Rebels, on the other hand, boast a 2.94 earned run average, good for sixth in the conference.

Behind the pitcher, both teams have been inconsistent fielding the ball this season and rank in the bottom half of the conference. Ole Miss has recorded 25



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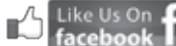
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The start of spring practice and the dawn of the Hugh Freeze era



AUSTIN MCAFEE | The Daily Mississippian

LEFT: Head coach Hugh Freeze addresses members of the Ole Miss media yesterday before the start of spring practice today.

BY BENNETT HIPPI  
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The Freeze era begins today with the start of 15 days of spring practice, which will conclude April 21 with the annual

Grove Bowl at 1 p.m.  
“I am very excited about tomorrow,” Freeze said in Thursday’s press conference. “I’m sure you have a lot of questions, and we do, too. We have had eight great days of what we call fourth

Spring Football Practice Schedule

MARCH	APRIL
23 OPEN (3:30 p.m. Practice Fields)	2 Closed
24 OPEN (10:30 a.m. Practice Fields)	3 Closed
25 Closed	5 Closed
27 Closed	10 Closed
29 Closed	12 Closed
31 OPEN (TBA)	14 OPEN (TBA)
	16 Rebels' Choice Awards
	17 Closed
	19 Closed
	19 Chucky Mullins Award Banquet
	21 BancorpSouth Grove Bowl, 1 p.m., Vaught-Hemingway Stadium

INFOGRAPHIC BY CAIN MADDEN | The Daily Mississippian

quarter drills that we are allowed to do in the mornings with our kids. I thought we improved from day one to day eight of that. In particular, I thought the wide receiver group improved their work ethic probably the most over that period of time, and it needed to improve.”

From those workouts, a few players have emerged as leaders, and Freeze expects them to continue in those roles during practice.

“The people like Charles Sawyer, Mike Marry, Donte Moncrief, Tyler Campbell and H.R. Greer,” Freeze said. “Those guys have developed into some wonderful leaders; I think those are guys you can depend on every single day.”

“I think there are some good leaders on this team; now we’ve just got to put them in roles where people want to follow them and hopefully find them a way to have success.”

Much of the focus early on in spring practice will be on the quarterback position, where in-

coming junior-college transfer Bo Wallace will take snaps alongside seniors Randall Mackey and Zack Stoudt, junior Barry Brunetti and freshman Maikhail Miller. In regards to the quarterback situation, Freeze said, “Honestly, I really don’t know where things are right now.”

“I have said from day one that we have to create great competition in that room, and I expect to do that this spring. Whoever takes the first snap tomorrow, I promise you, it has nothing to do with them being the lead candidate for the job. I do think that that’s a position, of course, that we’ve got to get better play at.”

With the large number of quarterbacks on the roster, it’s not out of the question that a couple of them could try a different position at some point. Freeze said that also goes for every player on the roster.

“We would look at any kid, not just at the quarterback position, but if there’s a receiver that’s a better safety or a safety that’s a better running back, spring is

for that,” Freeze said. “You’ll probably see some kids playing some different spots just so we can evaluate them at different places, and quarterbacks are no exception to that.”

While battling depth issues and trying out players at different positions, the Rebels still have to install at least part of their offensive and defensive game plans. In regards to the offense, getting the pace down is the first step.

“So you’re probably looking at about 50 percent of our stuff that we’ll get in,” Freeze said. “More important to me is them being able to handle the pace to do those things, and you won’t see that early on in a significant amount of practices because they don’t know it yet. You’ve got to teach it first.”

When asked about academic casualties for spring practice, Freeze didn’t give specific names, but said, “We are going to take each case differently” and that several players will not participate in this weekend’s practices “because we’re trying to set the standard for academic success here.”

Freeze also said junior linebacker D.T. Shackelford, sophomore linebacker Keith Lewis and offensive guard Darone Bailey will be held out of spring practice due to injury.

When spring practice concludes for the Rebels after the Grove Bowl, Freeze knows what he wants to be able to say about his team that he can’t now.

“I want to be able to say that the energy, effort and competitive spirit that we had was there for day 15,” he said. “That is our ultimate goal.”

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